

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming multiple simultaneous active wireless connections between a wireless client and two or more separate wireless access points ~~in a wireless local area network~~, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining, by the wireless client, a first primary active affiliation between the wireless client and a first primary wireless access point ~~in the~~ a first wireless local area network, the first primary wireless access point providing ongoing communication services to the wireless client on the first wireless local area network by sending data to the wireless client and receiving data from the wireless client on the first primary active affiliation on the first wireless local area network;

obtaining, by the wireless client, a second primary active affiliation between the wireless client and a second primary wireless access point in the first wireless local area network, the second primary wireless access point providing ongoing communication services to the wireless client on the first wireless local area network by sending data to the wireless client and receiving data from the wireless client on the second primary active affiliation on the first wireless local area network;

simultaneously maintaining and using, by the wireless client, the first primary active affiliation between the wireless client and the first primary wireless access point in the first wireless local area network and the second primary active affiliation between the wireless client and the second primary wireless access point in the first wireless local area network, during a period of operation of the wireless client when the wireless client is not engaging in a handoff process between access points on the first primary wireless local area network;

wherein the first primary wireless access point and the second primary wireless access point are both part of the first wireless local area network.

Claims 2-3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of locating additional wireless access points by scanning beacon signals from other wireless access points.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining the first primary active affiliation comprises generating a first request to send message and sending the first request to send message to the first primary wireless access point.

Claims 6-7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of obtaining the second primary active affiliation comprises generating a second request to send message and sending the second request to send message to the second primary wireless access point.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the second request to send message includes identification information about the first primary wireless access point.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented mended) The method of claim 1, further comprising simultaneously receiving first data by the wireless client from the first primary wireless access point and receiving second data from the second primary wireless access point.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of receiving the second data from the second access point is initiated before the step of receiving the first data from the first wireless access point has been completed.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the wireless client has a first IP address associated with the first primary active affiliation and a second IP address associated with the second primary active affiliation.

Claims 13-23. (Canceled)